

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO  
ISSUE A PATENT IN FEE TO WILLIAM JENNINGS

JULY 3, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

Mr. McMULLEN, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7304]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7304) authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to William Jennings, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 6 through line 11, and page 2, lines 1 through 11, strike out the language on these lines and insert in lieu thereof the following:

The west half of the northwest quarter of section 36; the northwest quarter, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, the south half of the southwest quarter and lots 1, 2, and 4 of section 35; the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 2 south, range 34 east, principal meridian, Montana; and lots 3 and 4 of section 2; lots 1 and 2 and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 3; the southeast quarter of section 4; the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 9, township 3 south, range 34 east, principal meridian, Montana, containing in all one thousand seventy-nine and two one-hundredths acres more or less.

EXPLANATION OF THE BILL

The bill authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to William Jennings for the remainder of his homestead allotment on the Crow Indian Reservation, Mont., comprising 319.10 acres, and certain inherited and acquired lands, for a total of 1,079.02 acres.

Legislation is necessary in this matter due to the fact that the act of June 4, 1920 (41 Stat. 751), provides that a Crow Indian allottee shall not sell more than one-half of his homestead, or 320 acres thereof.

Apparently Mr. Jennings is qualified to conduct his affairs without

governmental supervision. Therefore, the committee unanimously report and urge the passage of this bill as amended. The bill was amended to correct land description.

The favorable report of the Department of the Interior reads as follows:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, D. C., July 1, 1952.

Hon. JOHN R. MURDOCK,  
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,  
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. MURDOCK: Reference is made to your request for a report on H. R. 7304, a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to William Jennings.

I recommend that the bill be enacted, if modified to include the suggested changes set forth below.

The bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue a patent in fee to William Jennings for the remainder of his homestead allotment No. 3306 on the Crow Reservation, Mont., comprising 319.10 acres, and certain inherited and acquired lands. The act of June 4, 1920 (41 Stat. 751), provides that a Crow Indian allottee shall not sell more than one-half of his homestead, or 320 acres thereof. For this reason the enactment of legislation is necessary to authorize the allottee to sell all the homestead land described in the bill.

It appears that Mr. Jennings is qualified to conduct his affairs without governmental supervision or protection. Alienation of the land will not adversely affect other Indian interests and will not interfere with the administration of the land-use program of the Crow Tribe. However, the area described in lines 8 and 9 of the bill as "a strip three rods wide and one-quarter mile long in the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter" should be eliminated for the reason Mr. Jennings owns only an undivided two-ninths interest therein. It is further recommended that his inherited and acquired land on which he has established his home, described as the  $N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36; lot 3 and the  $NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 35, T. 2 S., R. 34 E., comprising 239.78 acres, be also eliminated from the bill for the reason Mr. Jennings is indebted to the Crow Tribe for a loan of approximately \$2,500 and the land is needed as security. When the loan has been paid a patent in fee may be issued to Mr. Jennings without legislation.

In view of this situation, and for the reason there are certain errors in the land description as shown in the bill, it is recommended that the bill describe only the following land:

"The west half of the northwest quarter of section 36; the northwest quarter, the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, the south half of the southwest quarter and lots 1, 2, and 4 of section 35; the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 2 south, range 34 east, principal meridian, Montana; and lots 3 and 4 of section 2; lots 1 and 2 and the south half of the northeast quarter of section 3; the southeast quarter of section 4; the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 9, township 3 south, range 34 east, principal meridian, Montana, containing in all one thousand seventy-nine and two one-hundredths acres more or less."

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

R. D. SEARLES,  
*Acting Secretary of the Interior.*